

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 09862 131630Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----131818Z 050847 /45

R 131457Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6113  
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9862

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, EG, IS, US  
SUBJECT: ISRAELI OIL EXPLORATION IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: TEL AVIV 3991

1. AMOCO INFORMED US JUNE 13 THAT THEY HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY WATCHING TESTING OPERATIONS (REPORTED REFTEL) AT ISRAELI RIG WORKING IN GULF OF SUEZ. ACCORDING TO AMOCO'S OBSERVATIONS, ISRAELI DISCOVERY CONSISTED MOSTLY OF GAS, AND NOT IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES TO WARRANT OPTIMISM OVER COMMERCIAL VOLUME OF DISCOVERY. TEST APPEARS TO AMOCO TO HAVE BEEN COMPLETED BUT THERE IS NO ACTIVITY AT PRESENT WHICH WOULD INDICATE PLANS TO MOVE RIG. NEVERTHELESS, AMOCO FULLY EXPECTS THAT THEY WILL MAKE ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO DRILL IN SAME AREA. IN THIS CONTEXT AMOCO SHOWED EMBOFF GEOLOGICAL MAP OF ISRAELI DRILLING SITE, WHICH AMOCO USING TO TRY TO PREDICT WHERE RIG WILL MOVE. BASED ON SEISMIC PATTERN ONLY MOVE WHICH WOULD MAKE TECHNICAL SENSE WOULD BE IN DIRECTION EITHER OF MORGAN OR RAMADAN; I.E., WEST AND SOUTH OF PRESENT LOCATION. EITHER MOVE, AMOCO POINTS OUT WOULD CAUSE CONCERN TO THEMSELVES NOT TO MENTION GOE.

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2. PRIOR TO MEETING WITH AMOCO REPS, AMBASSADOR OSAMA AL-BAZ CALLED AMBASSADOR, AT FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY'S REQUEST, TO MAKE SURE WE WERE "AWARE OF NEW APPARATUS FOR IGNITING" AT ISRAELI RIG WHICH HAS BEEN OBSERVED BY EGYPTIANS WORKING FOR GUPCO AT MORGAN PLATFORM NUMBER 1 (CLOSEST EGYPTIAN PLATFORM TO ISRAELI DRILLING SITE) AND "INCREASED RIG ACTIVITIES AT ISRAELI

SITE" OBSERVED FROM MORGAN PLATFORM 3. AL-BAZ CONCLUDED THAT ACTIVITY INDICATES ISRAELIS HAVE MADE STRIKE (SIC). HE DID NOT GO BEYOND SIMPLE NOTIFICATION OF THESE OBSERVATIONS.

3. COMMENT: COINCIDENCE OF AMOCO AND FOREIGN MINISTRY APPROACHES WOULD INDICATE THAT ALL EYES IN GULF OF SUEZ ARE FOCUSED ON ISRAELI DRILLING OPERATION. ANY ATTEMPT BY ISRAELIS TO MOVE THEIR RIG, ESPECIALLY TO SOUTH AND/OR WEST AS AMOCO THINKS LIKELY, COULD WELL DEVELOP INTO DIFFICULT SITUATION. EGYPTIANS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY APPROACH US IN EFFORT TO PREVENT ISRAELIS FROM BEGINNING NEW DRILLING. THEY MIGHT ALSO TRY TO COUNTER BY ORDERING AMOCO TO ATTEMPT TO MOVE RIG INTO DISPUTED AREA. FORMER POSSIBILITY APPEARS MORE LIKELY AND WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF POSSIBILITY STRONG REACTION HERE IN CASE ISRAELIS ATTEMPT TO CONTINUE THEIR EXPLORATION IN GULF OF SUEZ.

EILTS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXPLORATORY DRILLING, GULF OF SUEZ  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** ENRG, PFOR, EG, IS, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009